

## **Faith at Home Corner** - *For the week of March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

*by Rev. Steve Andrews Jr.*

**Weekly Tip for Worshipping with Your Children:** *Worshipping with children is not easy, but it is necessary! Even from the time of birth, children learn the most by observing what their parents do. We are here to help. This week's tip is for: **Everyone!***

**COLOR CHANGE:** Notice that the different colors of the altar and the stoles (the sash that the pastors wear over their albs/robes) changed! The colors help us mark the time of the church year. **Purple** is a penitential color used during **Lent**. The forty days of Lent, including the six Sundays that fall during this season, use this deep, rich color which has come to represent somberness and solemnity, penitence, and prayer. Purple dye was rare, and therefore expensive. Only royalty could afford it. As part of the soldiers mocking Jesus, they put a purple garment on Him. It then helps us during Lent to remember the contempt and the scorn He endured as He sacrificed Himself for our sake. It calls our attention then to our daily need to live a life of repentance.

**Outreach Made Simply Practical!** *Live your normal, everyday lives with Gospel intentionality!*

**Eat with Other People** - We all eat 3 meals a day. That's 21 opportunities for church and mission each week without adding anything new to your schedule. And meals are a powerful expression of welcome and community.

**Weekly Worship Helps for the Home:** *How do we go about doing devotions together as a family? How do we teach our children about their Lord and Savior? Here are some simple ways to do just that, to make Christ the center of your family and to be in His Word daily. This guide is designed to help your family read through the Scriptures together in three years and to cover the Small Catechism in just one year!*

*You can certainly do this however you would like. In my home, we read a chapter of the Bible together after dinner each night, followed by reciting the three chief parts of the Catechism (Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed, and the Lord's Prayer) and then we sing a hymn. There are any number of ways to talk about God in your home!*

-Pray together! This week's **Prayer List:** <http://www.gracefaithlove.org/newsletter>

-Scripture Readings: Let's read Romans 10-16. Feel free to ask your Pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Philippians 3:20 – But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

-Hymn: *Children of the Heavenly Father*                      LSB 725 in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 4

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on the Lord's Prayer: Fifth Petition, What does this mean?, pg. 21. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The First Article, Part Three, pg. 156-163.

-Devotions resources: grab a copy of *Portals of Prayer* at church or subscribe to daily email devotions from [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org), [www.lutheranchurchcharities.org](http://www.lutheranchurchcharities.org), or <https://media.higherthings.org/reflections/>.

Feel free to share with family and friends, neighbors and coworkers, anyone you'd like!

# God Time at Home

*Select questions and adapt for your family.*

**FOR STARTERS:** Set up an obstacle course or maze on the floor with pillows or safe objects. Let a family member verbally help another blindfolded family member through the maze. Ask: "Would you prefer giving directions or receiving directions while blindfolded? How good do you think Jesus is at giving directions?"

**READ THE BIBLE:** John 9:1-41

**KEY VERSE:** John 8:12b, "*Jesus spoke... 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have a life filled with light and will never live in the dark.'*"

**TALK ABOUT IT:** As Jesus and his disciples walked along, they saw a blind man. In John 9:3, why did Jesus say this man was born blind? (*So that God could show what he could do for him.*) How did Jesus heal the man of his blindness? (*Jesus spit on the ground and mixed the spit with dirt. Then he smeared it on the man's eyes and told him, "Wash it off in the pool of Siloam."*) The Pharisees did not believe that Jesus healed this man. How did they show their unbelief? (*Twice they questioned the man healed from blindness asking him who this Jesus was. They questioned the blind man's parents to see if he had really been blind since birth. John 9:33.*) How did the man healed of blindness show he believed Jesus was the Son of Man? (*In John 9:32-33 he said, "Since the beginning of time, no one has ever heard of anyone giving sight to a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he couldn't do anything like that." He confessed to Jesus that he believed him to be the Son of Man. John 9:35-38.*)

Do you think this miracle proves Jesus is God's Son? What other proof does the Bible give? When we trust Jesus as our Savior and follow him as our leader, we spiritually see the things to avoid and also see the ways he wants us to go. What are some of the things Jesus asks you to avoid? (*Acts of disobedience, wrong choices, etc.*) Why do you think we can trust what Jesus says in his word about following him? What did he do for us? (*The word of God never changes. Jesus loved us so much that he gave his whole life by dying on the cross. He gives us spiritual eyesight to follow him.*)

**PRAYER:** Thank God for His power to spiritually open our eyes. Thank him that we can trust him because his word is truth and shines light into our dark places. Pray for all family members to walk in the light of Jesus' love and truth.

## Family Time Option

*One day this week, try...*

**FAMILY TIME OPTIONS:** As a reminder that Jesus takes us out of spiritual darkness, decorate switch plates in the bedrooms using paper cut to fit, or buy other switch plates from the hardware store and decorate them with permanent markers. Personalize the plates with the children's names reminding them of how *\*Jesus spiritually opens their eyes to see the truth.* (Or you could also write the key verse on the switch plate.)